



Harold Arrivillaga <harold.arrivillaga@lacity.org>

Fwd: Canyon School....

Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>
To: Harold Arrivillaga <harold.arrivillaga@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 1:45 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vicki Israel** <vicki.israel@lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 3:42 PM
Subject: Canyon School....
To: Anita Meacham <Anita.Meacham@lacity.org>, Laura Island <Laura.Island@lacity.org>, Gonzalo Manrique <Gonzalo.Manrique@lacity.org>

please read

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephen Fletcher, Esq** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 12:08 PM
Subject: Canyon School forced to close today due to Rec and Parks roof maintenance.
To: Dan Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>
Cc: Heather Fox [REDACTED]

Hey Dan,

Canyon School was forced to cancel school today at 9:00 due to roof cleaning that blew materials all over their space.

The school was not notified or consulted of the cleaning nor was the crew cleaning given notice as to the nature of the debris on the roof or the likely hazard of the material due to the adjacent construction site. The supervisor, George Alvarado (Senior Roofer) and all the crew were utterly professional and admitted they would have approached the job entirely differently had they but had a two minute conversation with Celia who runs Canyon School. Had they approached it differently, the school would not have had to close due to safety concerns for the children. This was not an option as Celia could not expose the children to this risk.

So 30 children's parents (25 in the afternoon) had to make last minute changes to childcare for the day. Several had to call out of work. All due to lack of communication.

- 1820 Las Palmas

Everyone is extremely optimistic with the attention finally coming to the facility, and we all appreciate the council office getting involved and working to move this forward positively. With this attention there are undoubted growing pains and communication troubles, like today, so hopefully we can learn from this to avoid the issue in the future.

However, these communication troubles are not new. Which leads to Nicole Bernal. She is unequivocally the source of most, if not all of the communication problems that were never an issue before she removed John Ruiz for going above her head.

As you well know, this facility has been woefully ignored by the city for decades, as evidence by the pure lack of knowledge of the facility you pointed out last week. Even with those issues, under John it was beginning to thrive again as a vibrant open place for the community, however it needed to be safe and clean, which it was and is still not. Since his removal last June (one which we all still are frustrated by and would love him back) the place has been treated as though it were shutting down. Why? Because Nicole, even on Friday according to Celia, keeps saying to everyone that it will be soon! She's said it to me several times, and when pressed, she just claims that what she was told.

So something needs to be done about this situation. The most obvious first step is that there needs to be a full time director dedicated to the Senior Center to over see 1820 Las Palmas .

- Full-time Director of Las Palmas Senior Center

Let me know blunt: Nicole is simply not competent in her position overseeing this facility in addition to her duties at Yucca, thus causing problems at both facilities, but primarily detrimental to Las Palmas Senior Center and Canyon School. Just last week, after your visit and the sudden attention by Rec and Parks, she was in her car on the phone for 15-20 minutes whilst seniors waited for her to simply unlock the doors in the morning chill and was closing the facility earlier each day, as early as 4 on some days.

That's unacceptable, if not spiteful.

Additionally, since your visit, they have finally begun locking the gates to the parking lot in the evenings (as they always had under John) thus preventing it becoming the RV and homeless encampment it had become over the past 8 months. Nicole claims falsely this is brand new change, even though it was the norm for at least the 4 years John was director and Celia says was the norm since the 80s.

In a perfect world we could get John back from Hancock Park in his beloved role as Director. If not, we at least need a full-time director to oversee 1820 Las Palmas and make sure it is being run competently; open and closed at the proper times, with the homeless respecting the rules of the area, and while the park being open for use by our fellow citizens besides at the times Nicole decides we are privileged to access this public space. In other words, being the type of community center our area needs and deserves.

Apologies for my longwinded email, but with momentum finally bringing this long overdue attention to the site, I feel compelled to keep positively moving the ball forward and think the first step is bringing on a full time director

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